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OCI No. 0807/67

DIA review(s)

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
Directorate of Intelligence  
22 April 1967

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

State Dept. review

Military Takeover in Greece  
(Situation Report Number 4--6:00 AM EST)

1. Athens remains calm. There have been only a few incidents. Security restrictions against telephone communications, commercial air service, and travel within Greece have been rescinded. Most of the politicians detained during the coup were to be released last night, but their release has not been reported.

2. [redacted] suspected Communist agents will be arrested; 361 of 800 known dangerous Communist have been rounded up, and all material at some leftist organizations' offices is being confiscated.

3. In his address to the Greek people yesterday, Prime Minister Koliass justified the coup by claiming that the elections--no matter who won--would have led to "bloodshed and chaos" and that the army "intervened to check the march toward destruction one step before the brink was reached." Koliass urged national unity and castigated the "bad demons, demagogues, unconscientious opportunists, and professional anarchists who sought to divide us."

4. Although Koliass promised the country would return to "parliamentarism on a wholesome basis after the consolidation of normality," his remarks reflect a disgust with professional politicians which will make

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it difficult for the coup leaders to return Greece to its former rulers. The announced objectives of the new government--a just distribution of national income, strengthening the church, achievement of social justice and hastening of economic development--indicate that at least some of the members of the new government regard the coup as more than a temporary expedient to prevent a Communist takeover.

5. On Cyprus, Interior Minister Polykarpos Georkatzis is apprehensive about a leftwing demonstration planned for Nicosia on 22 April by AKEL (the Communist Party). Any such demonstrations or incidents instigated by AKEL presumably would be in protest against the rightwing military takeover in Greece. Georkatzis has interceded with AKEL leaders in an attempt to dissuade them from any such action, and states that if they persist in their plans he will use police and military to put down disturbances.

6. There are no indications that either Turkey or the Turkish Cypriots are attempting to exploit the situation in Greece.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
Directorate of Intelligence  
22 April 1967

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

Military Takeover in Greece  
(Situation Report Number 5--11:30 AM EST)

1. The situation in Athens has remained outwardly calm. During the night, tanks and troops were removed from the center of the city, and traffic moved normally during the day. The US Embassy reports that people have seemed to be going about their business as usual although the average person appeared "stunned and puzzled" by yesterday's coup.

2. At the same time, however, indications that all may not be well within the new regime evidently have reached the foreign press. A somewhat guarded Reuters piece from Athens this morning pinpointed an army brigadier and two young colonels as the leaders of the coup, and noted that there was "no independent confirmation" and some uncertainty that the King backed the coup. If rumors of this kind persist, the coup leaders may well press the King to give more signs of active cooperation with them.

3. The new government announced that it was removing its emergency restrictions on economy activity, and that the stock and monetary markets would operate as they did before the coup. Traditionally, political crises lead Greeks to convert their money into gold and to begin hoarding household goods. If such activities began, the government presumably would reinstate emergency measures.

4. The coup may cut back the valuable Greek tourist trade, and may inhibit recently planned foreign investment in Greece. The Government has emphasized that its policy will be one of financial prudence and monetary stability, however, and if the situation remains stable these economic reactions are likely to be only temporary.

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5. On Cyprus, the Greek Cypriot press is showing considerable caution in its treatment of the Greek situation, reflecting the Cypriot Government's advice that Cypriots avoid involvement. The press takes particular notice of the new Greek government's intent to pursue the goal of enosis of Cyprus with Greece. The Cypriot Communist newspaper warns that the Cypriot people must be vigilant to prevent extension of the "American imperialist" coup to Cyprus.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
Directorate of Intelligence  
22 April 1967

## INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

Military Takeover in Greece  
(Situation Report Number 6--1630 EST)

1. Twelve new Cabinet ministers and two under-secretaries have been sworn into office in the presence of King Constantine. They reportedly include four Supreme Court Justices, the Deputy Prosecutor of the Supreme Court, and a retired Vice Admiral. Paul Gouras is Minister of Foreign Affairs--the post which he held in the caretaker Paraskevopoulos government which fell on 30 March. The new Under Secretary of National Defense is Lt. General Zoitakis, previously reported as a prime mover in the coup.

2. Although a government spokesman has told journalists that "the king is with us", other reports have indicated that the King was balking at putting his signature on the decree declaring martial law and suspending certain articles of the constitution. The Embassy has not confirmed that the King has signed the decree, despite the fact that radio announcements immediately after the coup asserted that the King had signed.

3. Interior Minister Patakos has announced that the curfew will be in effect only from 1 AM to 5 AM and that theaters are free to operate. Indoor meetings and outdoor gatherings of more than five persons, however, are still banned. A statement issued today indicates that the government intends to exercise strict control of the press. It noted that freedom of the press does not mean "licentiousness" or "a yellow press."

4. Elements of the US Sixth Fleet have been directed to proceed to an area off the southern tip of Greece and to the Ionian Sea as a contingency measure.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
Directorate of Intelligence  
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INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

Military Takeover in Greece

(Situation Report Number 7--2000 EST)

1. A message from the Defense Attache in Athens confirms other indications that behind the facade of outward calm the situation is in fact extremely tense and uncertain. The Attache reports that the takeover evidently included a substantial amount of deliberate violence and "thuggery" against potential opponents. He also states that it has become clear that the coup did not have the active support of the senior officers of the Greek military, many of whom apparently were duped into believing that the King had ordered it, and that Lt. Gen. Spandidakis is merely a figure-head. The coup colonels now contemplate retiring their seniors.

2. The King, according to the Attache, remains unreconciled to the coup and views its perpetrators as a bunch of thugs. Earlier in the day he was considering a variety of desperate actions, including calling on troops in northern Greece, where he believes commanders are loyal to him, to march south to regain control. The fact that additional civilian cabinet members were subsequently sworn in suggests that the King is still biding his time while acting under duress. It seems unlikely that these tensions can persist unresolved for more than a few days. The Attache himself sees the fall of the monarchy, civil war within the Greek military, and/or the establishment of a Nasir-style dictatorship as being within the range of possibilities.



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3. There have been additional reports indicating extreme nervousness among the Greek Cypriot authorities in Cyprus, where the leftist press has already warned against the possibility of a follow-up coup by rightists.

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5. The Communists continue to take a very hard line toward the Greek coup, attempting to link the King closely with it. The French Communist Party has called upon the French Government to withhold recognition. Expatriate Greeks have demonstrated against the coup at the Greek embassy in Copenhagen, and Greek workers have put on a similar protest in Stuttgart, West Germany. The Communists' clandestine "Voice of Truth," broadcasting from Rumania, also continues to denounce the "royal fascist coup" in unmeasured terms.

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